

achieve in 2002, it will be the "Thurmond Amendment."

When you ask STROM THURMOND what his secret is for stamina and energy, he may say something about diet, working out, swimming, or loving the work he does for the people of his State.

But his secret is, he thinks young—always.

He probably still considers himself the junior Senator from South Carolina—every time he stands with constituents for a picture in front of the portrait of John C. Calhoun just outside this Chamber.

One year, his campaign camper was the "Strom Trek." Another year it was the "Thurmon-ator."

And he loves to talk with young people.

He always has time to talk to the pages and visit with our staffers, treating them with respect and warmth, making them feel special.

He always remembers to ask about our families, and always imparts some of that joy of life to those around him.

STROM THURMOND has a joy of life, a love of people, and a sense of duty that give him purpose and energy.

In a world that we fear is becoming too coarse, he is gracious—and reminds us of the way back to civility.

He is devoted to God and country.

He is our most senior Senator and the highest-ranking constitutional officer of the Senate. Best of all for us, STROM THURMOND is our friend and teacher.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, June 4, 1997, the Federal debt stood at \$5,358,712,178,993.49. (Five trillion, three hundred fifty-eight billion, seven hundred twelve million, one hundred seventy-eight thousand, nine hundred ninety-three dollars and forty-nine cents)

One year ago, June 4, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,139,964,000,000. (Five trillion, one hundred thirty-nine billion, nine hundred sixty-four million)

Five years ago, June 4, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$3,942,616,000,000. (Three trillion, nine hundred forty-two billion, six hundred sixteen million)

Ten years ago, June 4, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,302,258,000,000. (Two trillion, three hundred two billion, two hundred fifty-eight million)

Fifteen years ago, June 4, 1982, the Federal debt stood at \$1,078,868,000,000 (One trillion, seventy-eight billion, eight hundred sixty-eight million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,279,844,178,993.49 (Four trillion, two hundred seventy-nine billion, eight hundred forty-four million, one hundred seventy-eight thousand, nine hundred ninety-three dollars and forty-nine cents) during the past 15 years.

U.S. FOREIGN OIL CONSUMPTION FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 30TH

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the American Petroleum Institute reports that for the week ending May 30, the United States imported 8,374,000 barrels of oil each day, 327,000 barrels less than the 8,701,000 imported each day during the same week 1 year ago.

While this is one of the few weeks that Americans imported less oil than the same period 1 year ago, Americans still relied on foreign oil for 56.5 percent of their needs last week, and there are no signs that the upward spiral will abate. Before the Persian Gulf war, the United States obtained approximately 45 percent of its oil supply from foreign countries. During the Arab oil embargo in the 1970's, foreign oil accounted for only 35 percent of America's oil supply.

Anybody else interested in restoring domestic production of oil? By U.S. producers using American workers?

Politicians had better ponder the economic calamity sure to occur in America if and when foreign producers shut off our supply—or double the already enormous cost of imported oil flowing into the United States—now 8,374,000 barrels a day.

JUNK GUN BAN IN CALIFORNIA

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise to mark a historic day in the nationwide movement to get junk guns, or Saturday night specials, off our streets. The California State Assembly and the California Senate passed legislation to prohibit the manufacture and sale of junk guns in California. The bills require that all guns made or sold in California meet the same quality and safety test currently required of imported firearms.

I applaud and thank each and every member of the California Legislature who voted for the bill for their courage in supporting this important legislation. I especially wish to acknowledge Assemblyman Louis Caldera and Senator Richard Polanco, whose leadership and tenacity contributed immeasurably to the passage of this legislation.

The bills passed by the California Legislature are nearly identical to a bill I introduced in the Senate last spring, the American Handgun Standards Act, which I have reintroduced this year. For the largest State in the Union to pass this legislation is extraordinary.

I trust that this important victory is just what we need here in Congress to move forward with junk gun legislation on the Federal level. Each year, nearly 40,000 Americans die from gunshots and more than 200,000 are injured. Gunshots are now the leading cause of death among children in California.

I have spoken on this floor many times before about the junk gun double standard that has flooded our streets with cheap, unsafe, easily concealable handguns. In 1968, Congress required

that all handguns imported to the United States meet a tough quality and safety test. This import restriction virtually cut off the flow of foreign junk guns. However Congress failed to require domestically produced handguns to meet the same test. This double standard led to the creation of a domestic junk gun industry that has flooded our streets with these unsafe, ultracheap handguns.

Study after study has shown that these junk guns are the criminal's weapon of choice.

California has taken the lead in a nationwide movement to get these guns off our streets. Thirty-two cities and counties have enacted local ordinances banning junk gun sales within their jurisdictions. Now that the California Legislature has taken this courageous step, I urge Governor Wilson to sign this historic legislation.

Today, Californians who want an end to gun violence had a major victory, and the U.S. Senate should take notice. I hope that soon we will be able to pass the American Handgun Standards Act, which will make our children, our families, and our communities safer.

There is no reason why American-made handguns should not have the same quality and safety standards as imported handguns. This dichotomy is killing our people.

NATIONAL GUARD

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, over the last few days, I have been reading in newspapers and hearing on radio and television about the Quadrennial Defense Review [QDR] and the so called National Defense Panel [NDP]. The QDR is supposed to be a comprehensive assessment of current military strategy and force structure, as well as outlining a vision for the future. However, experts have called this QDR "A Cold War Relic" and when it comes to the Army, I agree with them.

I truly believe the citizens of Kentucky and the American people deserve the best national defense strategy the Nation can afford. Yet the Active Army wants to cling to their 10 divisions, while simultaneously calling for a new Base Closure Commission. This is especially ironic when you consider that during the 1995 Base Closure Commission, the Active Duty Army leadership insisted the Army could not afford to close any more bases. This was just 2 years ago. The Base Closure Commission said not to have another Commission until the year 2001.

Mr. President, I would urge my colleagues to read page 3-2 of the 1995 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission's report to the President, which says " * * * The Defense Department will be implementing the closures and realignments of the 1995 and prior Commissions through the end of this decade. The requirement in the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act that all Closures be completed within 6 years means that the closures